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## New CASA Director, Laura Shumate!

We would like to welcome Laura Shumate, our new CASA Director! While Laura is new to CASA, she is not new to the court. Laura is the Learning Partners Coordinator and will remain in that position alongside of being the CASA Director. Laura comes with many years of experience in the volunteer department and is excited to take on this new role. Laura will be a wonderful addition to the CASA program and is looking forward to getting to know everyone she hasn't already met! Please welcome Laura and feel free to stop and introduce yourself. Laura is planning to be here Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

**Learning Partners**

Grand Traverse County  
Probate & Family Court  
Volunteer Services



**New Vision Academy is in full swing thanks to our interns, Rob Gray & Abby Barker and Volunteer, Darcy Schlitt.**

*New Vision Academy gives juveniles, on probation, an opportunity for personal growth and development while keeping them busy and engaged during the summer. Members of our community, along with our volunteers, have introduced the youth to life skills, art, community service, healthy recreation, nutrition and more.*

Thanks to our community facilitators for participating in this years New Vision Academy!

Third Level Crisis Center, Sue Schmidt & Maswe Hennrick-Nutrition, Dr. Christina Richardson-Free to Play, Trooper Kris Makowski & Ammo-MI State Police K-9 Unit, US Army, Jim Adkins-Martial Arts, Traverse City District Library, Dennon Museum, Ryan Dordby-Huntington Bank, Devin Moore-Oryana, BATA, Northwestern Michigan College, Kathy Calderwood, Phil Hamburg-Yoga, Allie Shumate-Water Safety, Mr. & Mrs. Williams and their therapy dogs, Officer Matt McKinley-GT Sheriff Office, Becky Bigelow-Reining Liberty Ranch



# THANK YOU

Darcy Schlitt re-did our bulletin board! We really appreciate her creativity! Stop by and check out her Zen Tangle!

## Aggression Replacement Training

A HUGE **THANK YOU!** to Susan Bender and Bill Vaillancourt for facilitating **A.R.T.!**

Susan and Bill worked with 5 youth, that are on probation, every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m., for 9 weeks. The program is a evidence-based, proven-effective approach for working with challenging youth.



## Transport News

- ⇒ **We have two newly trained RDSS transporters!!** Jane Fochtman and Lee Storch attended a 2 day training in Mackinaw City, May 15th & 16th. RDSS, Regional Detention Support Services, is a division of DHHS. Grand Traverse is contracted with RDSS to provide transportation services for youth on probation. Transporters take youth to and from detention facilities when they are Court ordered.
- ⇒ **A new transport vehicle has been ordered!** A 2019 Chevrolet Impala is being made for us and will be here in 10-12 weeks! We'll let you know when it's delivered. Everyone is welcome to come check it out! Nothing like the smell of a new car! 🐾



Summer is underway and school days are on a break, but many Learning Partners remain active! We have some meeting with their students on a reduced schedule in an attempt to limit the "summer slide" of learning. Even maintaining skills at their current level is a boost to any student!

We are still working on details for summer activities, but will plan to distribute back-to-school supplies and backpacks beginning in late August. A big thank-you to The Rotary Club of Traverse Bay Sunrise!



### July

Jane Fochtman  
Karen Grant  
Kristy Kent  
Carla Lamphere  
Beth Sieloff  
Mary Wayne

### August

Ruth Bay  
Susan Bender  
Nancy Bryant  
Tim Doyle  
Nancy Giles  
Don Kuehlhorn  
Lori Metcalf-Rodes  
Susan Pahl  
Etta Rajkovich  
Ed Thoma  
Kathy Walsh-Sinnard



We had wonderful presenters for our last two CASA meetings!

**Carly Bentley, forensic interviewer from the Child Advocacy Center** joined us for our May CASA meeting and **Sgt. Ryan Tabaczka from Traverse Narcotics Team** joined us in June. Both enlightened us on subjects that, thankfully, not many of us have first hand experience with.

Carly walked us through how she interviews children when there has been a report to law enforcement or DHHS that the child may have been a victim of physical or sexual abuse or when a child may have witnessed a violent crime.

Sgt. Tabaczka showed us the items used to make meth and what to look for when in or near an area where meth is being made. He also had a variety of other things to look for that could indicate drugs are on the premises.

### **REMINDER: No July meeting.**

We will meet again August 21, 2018, 4-6 p.m.

We are always open to suggestions for our CASA meetings.



**VOLUNTEERS IN  
PREVENTION/PROBATION**

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE COURT

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

MELANIE D. STANTON, PROBATE & FAMILY COURT JUDGE

280 Washington St., Suite B 150, Traverse City, MI 49684

231-922-4827

Or Current Resident

### **Learning Partners**

1st Tuesday-4:00-5:00 pm

**No July Meeting**

**Tuesday August 7, 2018**

### **CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate)**

3rd Tuesday- 4:00-6:00 pm

**No July Meeting**

**Tuesday August 21, 2018**



\*All meetings are held at the Volunteer Services office unless otherwise mentioned.